

July 15, 2014

Mr. Keith Wallace
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: CASGEM Compliance Update
Groundwater Basin Number 2-9.04
East Bay Plain Basin (EBPB) Northern Subbasin

Dear Mr. Wallace:

This letter provides an update on local agency efforts to address California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program compliance for the northern portion of groundwater basin number 2-9.04 (the East Bay Plain Basin (EBPB) Northern Subbasin). DWR has informed EBMUD that it meets the CASGEM compliance requirement for the Southern Subbasin of the EBPB. DWR recently characterized the EBPB as a medium-priority basin under CASGEM. CASGEM compliance is being used by DWR to determine grant funding eligibility.

As noted in the 2014 Drought Grant Solicitation's Proposal Solicitation Package, DWR must "take into consideration whether a monitoring entity has already been proposed and is in the process of being established for the relevant basin(s) when determining eligibility". EBMUD has begun discussions with both Contra Costa County and Alameda County regarding the monitoring of the EBPB Northern Subbasin. These discussions will lead to the establishment of a monitoring entity for the EBPB Northern Subbasin.

The EBMUD service area overlies the EBPB Northern Subbasin which is located in portions of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. DWR's CASGEM program identifies overlying counties and water agencies as likely CASGEM monitoring entities. EBMUD, Alameda County and Contra Costa County risk the loss of critical drought grant funding opportunities if the EBPB Northern Subbasin is not covered under CASGEM even though the Northern Subbasin has virtually no value as a water resource. This letter details the status of the discussions taking place locally and the immediate next steps in that process.

The following approach is being taken to secure CASGEM compliance for the EBPB Northern Subbasin:

- EBMUD representatives are working with their counterparts at both Alameda County and Contra Costa County to identify wells located within the Northern Subbasin that could potentially be integrated into a proposed CASGEM monitoring program.

Mr. Keith Wallace
California Dept. of Water Resources
July 15, 2014
Page 2

- EBMUD and the counties are searching for wells with the following general characteristics:
 - in good working order and relatively new (less than 15 years old).
 - well completion information such as top of ground elevation, screened interval, and depth.
 - located to provide adequate coverage of the EBPB Northern Subbasin.
 - not associated with groundwater contamination clean up or pollutant monitoring.
- Based on well locations, ownership, and physical characteristics, a determination will be made regarding who would be the appropriate CASGEM lead agency(s) and who will serve as supporting agency(s) for the EBPB Northern Subbasin. It is possible that a Memorandum of Agreement and/or a Joint Powers Authority approach may be needed if one agency alone cannot assume the lead agency responsibilities.
- Because the EBPB Northern Subbasin is not a significant source of water supply, it may take several months to a year to identify wells, perform field verification and work with owners to obtain access. Assistance from local agencies (cities, park districts, etc.) and DWR to identify wells for consideration could be required.
- Once wells are identified and a lead agency determined, the lead agency will work with DWR to serve as the CASGEM monitoring entity for the EBPB Northern Subbasin.

In summary, EBMUD has engaged with Alameda County and Contra Costa County in a good faith effort to address the CASGEM monitoring needs of the EBPB Northern Subbasin especially considering that the subbasin is not a significant water resource for the area. Should you have any questions regarding the work that is taking place, or have any additional information requests, please feel free to contact Tom Francis of EBMUD at (510) 287-1303.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Sykes
Director of Water and Natural Resources

cc: Mary Scruggs, DWR - Conjunctive Water Management Section, DWR Headquarters
Chris Bonds, DWR - Conjunctive Water Management Section, North Central Region
Mark Boucher - Contra Costa County
James Yoo - Alameda County